

NEWS BRIEF



CONNOR B. STOTTMLEYRE

Stottlemyre sentenced for terrorist threats

The former Northwest Missouri State University student who pled guilty for last semester’s terrorist threats received his sentence from the Nodaway County Circuit Court.

Connor B. Stottlemyre, 19, Blue Springs, will serve 30 days in jail and will have five years of probation following the court’s decision.

He is also banned from setting foot on Northwest property, including satellite campuses.

Stottlemyre was responsible for three posts on Yik Yak threatening the campus, specifically black students and occupants of Hudson and Perrin residence halls.

The Nov. 5 post read, “I love evil, I just want to shoot up H&P, they’re all bullies especially in Hudson.”

The next posts took place later that week stated, “I’m gonna shoot any black ppl tomorrow so be ready,” followed by, “I love evil, I can’t wait for Northwest to make the news tomorrow.”

Stottlemyre was arrested Nov. 11, his birthday, for the posts after an investigation by University Police in conjunction with Yik Yak.



HANNAH WOODSON | NW MISSOURIAN

New Missouri bill may require passengers, regardless of age, to wear a seat belt and allow police to stop drivers if they suspect drivers are not wearing a seat belt.

Senate proposes new bill for driving safety

JAKE MCKNIGHT
News Editor | @jbmccknight93

Four new bills governing seat belt use, texting while driving and helmet requirements for motorcyclists prompted debate in a Missouri Senate committee.

Texting while driving is only forbidden for commercial drivers and people younger than 22. Two of the bills would ban texting while

driving for everyone. One of the bills is sponsored by Senator David Pearce, the other by Senator Jill Schupp.

A legislation from Sen. Jason Holsman would allow motorcycle riders who are at least 21 and have health insurance to ride without a helmet. They must also have been licensed for two years or have completed a safety class.

Another proposal by Schupp

would require everyone in a car to wear a seat belt, no matter the age. Law states adults in the backseat are exempt from seat belt requirements. It would also allow police to stop drivers solely for suspicion of not wearing a seat belt.


Missouri’s rate of seatbelt use was about 79 percent and trending downward in 2014, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, while the nation-

al usage rate was remaining stable around 87 percent.

The Missouri Highway Patrol also argues that one half of those killed in traffic fatalities would not have died had they worn seat belts. In the past year, 603 people in Missouri died in traffic accidents.

Reactions to the proposal have been fairly positive.

SEE SAFETY | A5



BECCA BOREN | NW MISSOURIAN

Bernie Sanders told supporters at his Kansas City rally Wednesday that college students should not be hopelessly in debt upon graduation, drawing sustained applause from the mostly under-40 audience.

Sanders energizes young crowd

ANGELA LUNA
Chief Reporter | @lunie95

KANSAS CITY, MO. -- Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders flew here from South Carolina Wednesday morning to speak at a campaign rally downtown at the Kansas City Convention Center.

About 7,000 people filled the convention center, which was completely surrounded by Sanders supporters an hour before the doors opened and more than three hours before the rally began. It wasn’t all love and cheers, for Sanders, however, as members of the Westboro Baptist protested across the street, carrying their signs and singing a

parody of “Let It Go” at the crowd. The protest didn’t last long, however, as the Westboro members departed shortly before the doors to the convention center opened.

The crowd was comprised primarily of young adults. However, the crowd ranged in age from newborns to people in their late 80s. A group of disabled adults and children sat up front, and a hearing-impaired signer provided interpretation for about 10 others.

High school and college students skipped class for the day just to watch Sanders and cheer for his free tuition plans.

“We are gaining momentum because people believe you should

not be \$50,000 or \$100,000 in debt when you graduate college,” Sanders said to raucous cheers from the audience.

The doors opened for the rally at 11 a.m., and the crowd continued to file in until the candidate took the state around 1:15 p.m.

Campaign signs filled the room, including “Feel the Bern” and “We are the 99%,” which has been another key point with his presidential plan. The democratic candidate attacked the 1 percent, saying the rich will continue to get richer while the poor will struggle living in poverty.

SEE SANDERS | A5

Greek Life changes may see delays

JAMES HENDERSON III
Editor in Chief | @jendersoniii

Northwest Missouri State University’s Greek Life visioning process may see an extension from its previous deadline.

The Greek Life visioning process began during the spring semester and consisted of interviews with alumni and surveys sent to students and faculty. Vice President of Student Affairs Matt Baker, Ph.D., said the visioning team sent out a request of proposals to Greek Life consulting companies in order to get an outside view on Northwest’s Greek Life. Baker said they were informed the April 15 deadline would not be plausible.

“What happened was we had a pretty aggressive timeline where we were hoping to have a Greek Life vision outlined and done by April 15,” Baker said. “But, they said, ‘We are too busy with other Greek Life cases and we can’t get to your campus in the time to give you an answer by April 15.’ So now we’re reevaluating if our original deadline is a realistic deadline. We can do some stuff and get some input by then, but we need to consider if it would be better to slow down, take more time, take an extra six, seven or eight months and get the right answers to a long-term improved and reenvisioned Greek system.”

The postponement of the deadline is not yet official because at time of publication, Baker was still in discussion with University President John Jasinski, Ph.D., but Baker said he was confident the deadline would get pushed back and that it was best for the process.

“I don’t know what the Pres-

ident will say, but I think we will slow down the Greek Life visioning program to make sure we are getting the right input,” Baker said.

Leaders of the program are continuing to interview alumni and are working on sharpening the questions for when they receive help from the consulting companies. They are also examining all Northwest Greek Life practices and comparing them to best practices from across the nation.

Baker said the extension of the deadline means the program should be comfortable with making changes to Northwest’s Greek Life.

“I think Greek Life over the last two years and over the next five years is changing, higher education is changing. I am not forecasting a huge change to Greek Life. But I am saying we better be ready to make good changes with the right goals in mind. I think it’s possible that we may make big changes, but if people from the outside saw the changes we made, I don’t think they would be too surprised. I think change will come to Greek Life, but I can’t predict what that will look like right now. We wouldn’t go through a process if we thought everything was going perfectly,” Baker said.

He could not predict what the changes to Greek Life would look like exactly, but Baker said it could range from additional resources to support Greek Life, looking at building Greek houses on campus or requiring off-campus Greek houses to have an “adult” resident to name a few of the possibilities.

SEE GREEK LIFE | A5



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Academy students take gold in science competition

BETH POTTROFF
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

More than 20 Missouri Academy students are moving on to a state level science competition.

The Missouri Academy students competed in the Science Olympiad competition and won first place overall Feb. 13.

The Missouri Science Olympiad Competition is a non-profit organization that operates under the National Science Olympiad. According to the Missouri Science Olympiad website, the National Science Olympiad is dedicated to improving the quality of science education, increasing interest in science, creating a technologically literate workforce and providing recognition for outstanding achievement by both students and teachers.

The Science Olympiad competition occurs once every year and includes events in areas of science such as chemistry, physics, and biology. Various teams of two to three students come together to compete in different events. Competitions start at the regional level and teams that place first at regionals move to the state competition.

The competition is a combination of speed and ability to finish tasks. The teams practice together and individually to prep for the competition. They also tend to have a good idea of what they will be tested on. At the competition, the teams are scored individually. At the end of the day, all the teams from the schools are scored up together to figure out which school won overall.



SUBMITTED

Northwest students in the Science Olympiad at the Missouri Academy of Science placed first overall in regional competition Feb. 13.

This year, the regional competition was here at Northwest, meaning more students were able to participate. Seven different schools came to the Science Olympiad competition. The Missouri Academy won first place overall. The state competition will be held April 9 at Westminster College.

Some of the other schools will

have instructors who specialize in preparing the students for the competition. Instructors at the Missouri Academy do not prep the students, however students at the academy take more advanced courses than most of the other schools they compete against.

The Dean of the Missouri Academy Cleo Samudzi thinks that it is

important for the students to be involved in things other than just strictly school.

“I look at what is good for the students, and this is good for their mental health,” Samudzi said. “They get to do something they enjoy with peers.”

There are a variety of other competitions the Missouri Academy stu-

dents have the opportunity to participate in. Later in the spring, there will be a Mathematics Olympiad competition. There is a Model UN competition in which students simulate running the United Nations. Other competitions include Envirothon, Robotics, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and Beta Club Competition.



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Missouri legislation to address custody rights

JAKE MCKNIGHT
News Editor | @jbmcnight93

Missouri lawmakers are debating how to settle parental custody. Legislation is being proposed that would make shared parenting for families in joint custody cases mandatory.

State law requires courts look at divorce or separation cases and decide which parent will have primary custody. Judges award what is called “significant, but not necessarily equal” periods of time with a child. The Senate bill heard in committee would change that wording to “approximate and reasonably equal” time.

The reform is being proposed by two bills, one in the Missouri House and one in the Senate with Representative Kathryn Swan and Senator Wayne Wallingford sponsoring them.

The change is something the National Parents Organization is applauding. According to its research, equal parenting helps kids

avoid a variety of things including substance abuse, depression and trouble with the law.

Northwest junior Heaven Waynard believes that while shared parenting makes sense on an emotional level, many factors make laws requiring equal time impractical or even dangerous for the children.

“I feel like it’s a scary concept since it doesn’t take the child’s well being into consideration. Kids have their own opinions about custody as well, so it’s unfair to assume that complete shared custody is better than investigating who would provide the best situation for the kids,” Waynard said.

Northwest senior Brooke Fullbright also believes the own child’s feelings are not factored in. She believes the child’s opinion should be taken into consideration.

“It’s a good idea in a perfect world. But it’s not a perfect world and not everyone is fit to be a parent. They

(the parents) are getting divorced for a reason and one of those reasons could be that the other is a terrible person. It would be unfair to the child if they have to be forced to be with the unfit parent,” Fullbright said.

Legislation introduced last year in the House never made it to a vote after the Missouri Bar raised objections over how such a law would impact things such as child support.

Shared parenting changes have been proposed in 18 states in the past year, according to the National Parents Organization.

Utah and Minnesota passed shared parenting laws during that time, while three states — Missouri, Massachusetts and Kentucky — have active bills before their legislatures. Several states that considered such measures last year are expected to bring them up again this year, according to the National Parents Organization.



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Northwest Missouri State University’s School of Agricultural Sciences received a donation of \$20,000 from Gary G. Taylor’s Charitable Trust for an Agricultural Learning Center.

SUBMITTED | NW MISSOURIAN

Longtime donor gives back to Northwest

ANGELA LUNA
Chief Reporter | @Lunie95

Northwest Missouri State University’s School of Agricultural Sciences received a generous donation. Gary G. Taylor Charitable Trust donated \$20,000 to Northwest’s school of Agricultural Sciences for a proposed Agricultural Learning Center. The donation will be used for construction at the University’s R.T. Wright Farm.

Taylor Charitable Trust fund also made a donation with the same amount in 2014 in support of agricultural sciences. Gary Taylor had a passion for agriculture in northwestern Missouri and grew up on a farm in Skidmore that the Taylor family still owns to this day. Market President for US Bank Rex Rodd knew Taylor was a progressive farmer and believed it was

important for Northwest to receive this donation. “He believed in improving the farmland and taking care of it, retaining the soil, building it for the future. That’s why we felt, as a committee, that it was so important that Northwest receive this, from an education aspect and taking care of agriculture in this part of the country,” Rodd said. Rodd presented the \$20,000

check to director of Northwest’s School of Agricultural Sciences Rodd Barr Feb. 11. Barr said the donation will help push their plans for the Agricultural Learning Center closer to reality. “We appreciate the support we’re receiving from all of our partners, especially the commitment of the Taylor Trust, to make this facility become a reality for the success of our students,” Barr said.

The proposed Agricultural Learning Center would cost an estimated \$8 million and would be approximately 24,000 square feet upon completion. The facility would be a multipurpose center that will give agriculture students hands on experience. Agriculture students will also be able to utilize a new laboratory for research to improve the curriculum.

Death penalty under review in Missouri legislature

ANGELA LUNA
Chief Reporter | @Lunie95

Republican Sen. Paul Wieland from Imperial introduced Senate Bill 816 which aims to repeal the death penalty in Missouri. SB 816 would completely repeal the death penalty in Missouri for those convicted of first degree murder as well as for anyone who has been sentenced to death before Aug. 28, 2016. This is the first time in years that the Republican led state debated a

capital punishment bill. A bipartisan lawmakers group argued the case of capital punishment Monday with colleagues. The group plans to end capital punishment completely in the state. According to the Associated Press, Missouri has executed 18 killers in a span of over two years. The Republican senator has received grass root support from Missouri Conservatives Concerned About the Death Penalty. Wieland, a practicing Catholic, is anti-abortion and opposes capital punishment.

“I’m a pro-life Catholic and I believe that if you’re going to be pro-life, you should be pro-life on both ends of the spectrum,” Wieland said. Sen. Kurt Schaefer, former prosecutor of Attorney General Jay Nixon, has argued in defense of keeping the death penalty. Schaefer learned from personal experience how prosecutors face tough standards when sentencing a criminal on death row. “The idea that somehow the victim in this whole thing is the defendant, who, after this whole process

was found guilty is outrageous,” Schaefer said. Many have argued capital punishment as “Cruel and unusual punishment” which is against the constitution. Pre-law student Katie Brown examines both sides on the penalization. “From an ethical and financial standpoint, the revocation of the death penalty in Missouri is appropriate and even necessary, especially when considering the costs associated with it. From the ethical standpoint, our Constitution recognizes

the deliberate taking of another life as murder and has declared that illegal,” Brown said. “In some ways the death penalty is exactly the type of thing the Constitution aims to control, prohibit, not encourage. I may not agree with the revocation personally, but from a legal standpoint can understand its purpose and proposal.” As of now, the bill has not received enough support to take more action on it any further. However, Wieland believes it is a victory the bill was even up for debate.

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OUR VIEW:

Conceal and carry wrong for our campus

After legislation was announced that would allow conceal and carry on college campuses in Missouri, President Jasinski sent out an email to students stating Northwest Missouri State University would not support the bill. We strongly agree with the statements Jasinski made and are also firmly opposed to this bill.

Senate Bill 731 sponsored by Sen. Brian Munzlinger would remove the law prohibiting concealed carry on college campuses. Munzlinger, who ranks 12th in lobbyist spending, is funded by the National Rifle Association for sponsoring SB 731.

In Jasinski’s letter to students, he states “...there were 320 mass shootings last year in the United States and a few did occur, tragically, on college campuses. But we have read no empirical research showing [carrying a concealed weapon] legislation will indeed keep campuses safer.”

In Darcie Bradford’s article in the Feb. 11 issue, she states “93 percent of violent crimes that victimize college students occur off campus and students on campuses are significantly safer than those off campus, even without weapons. The study also shows that on average, about 1,100 college students commit suicide each year while another 24,000 attempt suicide. Suicide attempts with firearms are fatal more than 90 percent of the time. The campaign fears that the 24,000 attempted suicides could be fatal if firearms were allowed on college campus.”

The passing of this bill would raise the number of suicides and put panic in students who oppose the bill. A student who never thought to get a conceal and carry permit is now supporting the bill so they can get a firearm and carry it legally on campus.

Seventy-five percent of students suffer from depression or anxiety

by the time they are 22. If these students have access to guns, they are instantly more capable of killing themselves. They do not even need to own the gun or get the license, all they need is a friend who has one they can easily access.

We need to understand that allowing students to carry a gun on campus is more dangerous to everyone around. We at the Missourian agree that we would feel more in danger if someone around us carried a gun.

A study by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse shows that four out of five college students drink and out of those half of them also binge drink or admit to drinking almost every night. Having drunk college students playing with guns is not something we find safe.

Friendly fire is something to think about with this bill. Someone getting drunk and showing off a weapon to a friend might cause a

tragic accident.

Passing this bill is a terrible idea. A student can have a minor disagreement get out of hand, then before we know it, we have a gun pulled.

The passing of the bill would also show an increase of students attempting to act as a police force for themselves.

Lt. John Weinstein said, “I’m a ‘gun guy.’ Always have been; always will be. I am an NRA member. I am a cop and a certified firearms instructor... despite my inclination to support the idea, something nagged at me. It occurred to me there is a significant difference between an individual citizen acting to defend himself and that citizen assuming an official role, blessed by a government agency to, in effect, assume police responsibilities.”

We do not need a bunch of gun toting students walking around campus attempting to keep everyone safe and out of danger. That is not

their responsibility, we do not need to depend on them to make us feel safe. In fact, seeing that around each day in a campus building would make us feel less safe.

Panic on campus would increase just knowing that the person walking nearby might have a gun. If we cite the Trayvon Martin shooting, a night time altercation was the only known reasoning behind the shooting. Altercations can take place at any time and can lead to an unnecessary lethal shooting here at Northwest.

If the bill were to pass, the law would be mandatory, but the campus can file for an exemption from the law with the Department of Justice if they wish. However, the school must be able to install security personnel and electronic weapons screening devices at every entrance to every building on its campus, which would cost upwards of \$30 million. That is a ridiculous amount that we do not have and in order to obtain

that amount would potentially raise tuition drastically.

This bill is a terrible idea sponsored by a man receiving nearly \$1000 by the NRA to push the bill through senate. We do not agree with this bill and will strongly oppose it every chance we have. This campus will remain safe if we can keep guns out of hands of all except the police force.

As Jasinski said, “Northwest is proud to be one of the state’s education solutions and an economic engine for the region. We pledge to continue to take control of our destiny by being strategic in nature and focusing on student success. Our strategic plan and its five strategic objectives help focus our actions. CCW legislation will not assist the advancement of our strategy.”

We do not need this bill in Missouri. It is safer and beneficial to everyone to oppose and keep conceal and carry off this campus.

Women should have a choice in pro-abortion rights



As Angela Luna stated in last week’s opinion column, abortion is one of our nation’s top controversial issues. Unlike last week’s column, I am taking a stand for abortion.

In 1973, the Texas courts decided with Roe v. Wade that during the first trimester of pregnancy, a woman could have an abortion due to implied privacy laws included in the Fourteenth Amendment.

Bearing or not bearing a child is a private matter and should be a decision left to the pregnant woman.

Fast forward 19 years to Planned Parenthood v. Casey. This case led to a ruling stating that states cannot impose “undue burden,” which

is defined as a “substantial obstacle in the path of a woman seeking an abortion before the fetus attains viability.” This means that it shouldn’t be unreasonably difficult for a woman to get an abortion. Because this ruling was vague, states are taking advantage.

When looking at recent abortion acts, it’s easy to see that women are having to pass substantial obstacles when trying to get an abortion.

Texas’ HB2 act requires that all abortion-performing doctors have admitting privileges at a hospital less than 30 miles away.

Very few hospitals will grant these privileges. HB2 also requires that women receiving a medical abortion (abortion pill) visit the facility a total of four times: a consultation, one visit for each of the two pills, and a follow up visit after 14 days.

This act is in addition to the 24-hour waiting period law that re-

quires a 24-hour waiting period between a mandatory ultrasound and a woman’s actual abortion.

Another recent act in Alabama requires all abortion facilities to meet the same building safety code standards as ambulatory surgical centers.

This means meeting codes such as wider hallways and doorways. Due to lack of funding, many facilities have shut down because of this act.

With these acts in place, it can be very difficult for a woman to find an abortion clinic. If there are no clinics in a woman’s area, she has to travel to one. After traveling to a clinic, she has to have a consultation and a waiting period, which in some states can be up to 72 hours. These are major hoops that women are having to jump through. Abortions are theoretically legal, but nearly physically impossible.

Why do we have these acts in

place? “To protect the health and safety of women,” politicians say.

Did you know that colonoscopies have a higher mortality rate than abortions performed in licensed clinics? Carrying a pregnancy to full-term and giving birth also has a higher mortality rate than abortions.

“The reality is that legal abortion is one of the safest medical procedures that exists and that is why doctors and most major medical organizations, including the American Medical Association, have come out against these laws,” said Litigation Director at the Center for Reproductive Rights Julie Rikelman.

Abortion clinics are required to tell women that abortions can lead to bleeding, infection, future miscarriages, fertility issues and higher risks of cancer. There have been no studies to prove this, but all of these are possible side effects of pregnancy as well.

These laws in place for “wom-

en’s safety” can make a woman’s life very unsafe. Because abortions can be very hard to obtain, women often take things into their own hands. One clinic reported receiving a call from a young woman asking, “What if I tell you what I have in my kitchen cabinet and you tell me what I can do?”

Just because abortions are legal doesn’t mean that everyone will have one. Obviously, because they’re so hard to obtain. Although I do agree with a 24-hour waiting period, I don’t think there should be obstacles to receive an abortion. Women should not have to take a typically safe medical procedure into their own hands because they can’t find a doctor to do it for them.

I am pro-abortion rights and I believe that a woman has the right to choose what she does with her body, with easy access to a medically safe environment.

Missouri death penalty should be repealed



The debate over the death penalty has been a long-standing one. However, there seems to be an end in sight.

More states are straying away from using the death penalty as it becomes more apparent that the method has become outdated. The death penalty has become a practice that just doesn’t seem to make sense any-

more.

Many will argue that the death penalty is cheaper for taxpayers, which is absolutely false. The average length of time for the initial prosecution for a death penalty case means thousands of courtroom staff are involved.

Moreover, death penalty cases take, on average, 25 years to reach an ultimate decision, which means more money to be spent to continue the process.

An argument may be presented that the death penalty is giving justice to the families of victims who have been brutally murdered. How-

ever, the death penalty is actually harder on the families of the victims than we realize. A death penalty case that has an extensive process will hook a family to the justice system for a long time, making it more difficult for the family to cope from the loss.

According to a CNN article, in Colorado a trial process alone is six times longer than if the state decided on life without parole. So to claim that the death penalty will give the family justice is not a plausible argument.

Dating back to ancient history, capital punishment has been re-

served for wrongdoings like murder, espionage, treason and sex crimes. However, it’s hard to see how capital punishment is indeed a punishment when the victims die worse deaths than the killer will be sentenced to.

Executions are far less severe than life without parole. A criminal on death row understands he or she is going to die and has accepted the price they have to pay. The criminal also comprehends that death will be easy and swift, generally painless. The prisoner’s only fear is death itself, but this would be a different process for a criminal in prison for life. An inmate typically spends 20

hours a day in a cell with little to no communication with other inmates or the outside world.

The inmate is left with his or her thoughts and guilt until judgment day and will live an empty life with family, friends, dreams, and happiness diminishing into thin air.

This is the punishment best served to those who commit heinous crimes. They should live out the rest of their lives in a cell, not knowing when it will end. The death penalty for a criminal is a get out of jail free card, never knowing what it’s like to suffer like their victims’ families have suffered.

STAFF

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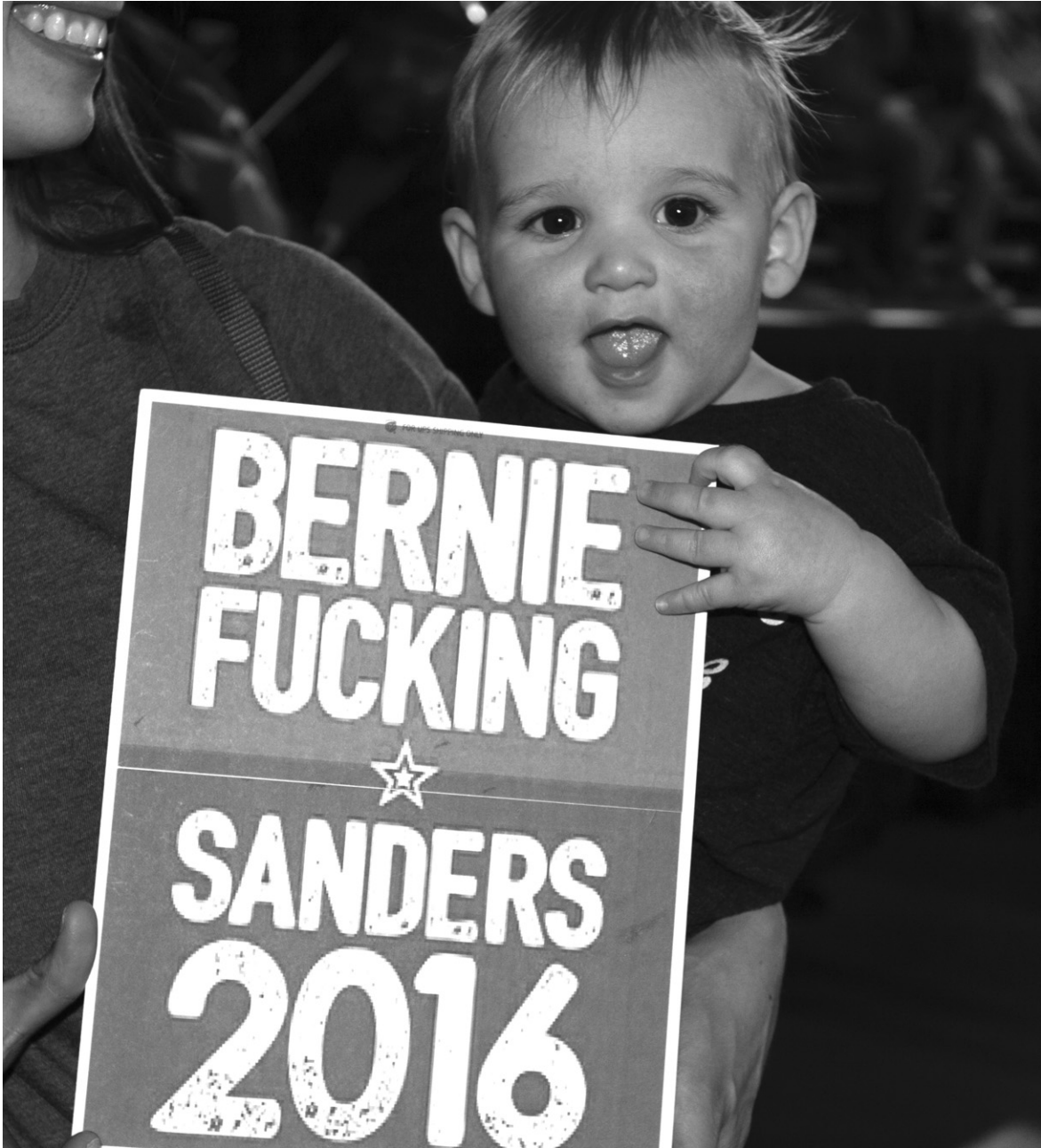
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We publish letters from readers for free. All letters become the property of the Northwest Missourian, which reserves the right to edit them. Letters should include your name, address and telephone number. Letters should be between 150 and 300 words and sent to z.dujakovich.nwmissourian@gmail.com.



Left, young and old alike came out to support Sanders at his rally in Kansas City Wednesday, sometimes with interesting messages. Right, Sanders takes the stage to raucous applause and cheers.



SANDERS

CONTINUED FROM A1

“I believe a person who is working over 40 hours a week, shouldn’t be living on a wage of seven dollars and a quarter,” Sanders said. “People can’t even live off of 10 or 11 dollars an hour.”

Sanders said his campaign is calling for a political revolution with radical changes.

Some of these changes include, universal health care, paid maternity and health leave, funding for veterans, equal pay, more Planned Parenthood funds, taxation of Wall Street to fund public college institutions, and helping the environment.

“Let’s talk about something

the GOP won’t: Climate change is real, it’s caused by human activity, and climate change is causing devastating problems in this country and around the world,” Sanders said. “We need to leave this planet to future generations in a way that is healthy and habitable.”

Missouri Valley College Senior Demecio Ross Jr. skipped class and even a college cheerleading event to attend Sanders’ rally.

“His crowd appeal is wonderful. Bernie takes time to interact with everyone,” Ross said. “Some of the big issues he talked about effect Missouri the most. Climate change and joining the ranks of industrialized nations with health care. It’s time our county has a leader who

wants what’s best for everyone.”

Sanders said his campaign’s continued growth is a testament to his devotion to telling the truth and speaking directly to students.

“No president can do it alone,” he said. “What we need are millions of people all over this country to stand up and say loudly and clearly ‘Enough is enough.’ This campaign is about nothing more than having a government that represents all of us and not just wealthy campaign contributors.”

The South Carolina Democratic primary is this Saturday, and is followed by Super Tuesday March 1, when 10 states will hold presidential primaries. Missouri holds its presidential primary March 15.

SAFETY

CONTINUED FROM A1

“It’s OK, but I feel like it’s a time regulation. I mean how will the cops even check if everyone is wearing their seatbelt? But if it benefits everyone’s safety then it’s a good thing,” senior Olivia Morris said.

Parents seem to be onboard with the idea since kids under the age of 22 are required to wear a seatbelt at all times.

“My moral feeling, everyone should be legally required to restrain their kids or anyone in the car. It’s for safety. But if you’re 40 years old and wanna fly through a windshield

that’s their choice.” Professor Chris Strelluf said.

Schupp had a similar piece of legislation. She also offered a bill that would change Missouri’s law on seat belts to a primary seatbelt law.

Primary seatbelt laws allow law enforcement to make traffic stops and write citations specifically for people who fail to wear a seatbelt. A secondary law means that a citation for those not wearing their seatbelt can only accompany another traffic offense like speeding.

Truckers, insurance agents, and even law enforcement also testified in favor of the bill.

However, the bills also raised

concerns from some members of the committee on how to balance safety with government intrusion.

Sen. Dave Schatz, R-Washington had significant problems with both pieces of legislation, concerned with how such measures could be enforced, statistics on seatbelt usage and the imposition of new laws on drivers. He did not want law to prompt police officers to pull over more Missourians and instead stressed the need for education and awareness.

Each of the bills still needs a vote to move out of committee and onto the Senate floor. It is not clear if or when those votes will occur.

GREEK LIFE

CONTINUED FROM A1

Baker said as they decide on the changes they may have to make, it is also important to remember the qualities Greek Life organizations provide students.

“We know that students involved in Greek Life are more likely to be retained,” Baker said. “We know that they do help students connect on campus, graduate and feel more connected to the campus as alumni.

There are a lot of good things that come out of the leadership training process. All of those are part of the conversation moving forward.”

Because of the benefits provided by Greek Life, some students do not believe there should be any changes made at all.

“No (I don’t think Greek Life needs changes),” junior Nathan Banks said. “I think if Greek Life did need change, they should change it subtly overtime so they don’t damage the benefits of the students in

Greek Life.”

However, some students believe Greek Life is in need of a major overhaul.

“If you look at how things have been going lately, I’m surprised Greek Life hasn’t changed already,” junior Trevor Simmons said. “I think there needs to be quite a bit done.”

With the probable delay of the Greek Life visioning system on its way, it is not clear when students will know the result of the visioning program.

Blotters for the week of Feb. 25

Maryville Department of Public Safety

Feb. 03

A summons has been issued to **Derek Dean** for driving while intoxicated and defective equipment for 400 block North Main.

Feb. 10

There is an ongoing investigation for property damage at 600 block East 1st Street.

Feb. 12

There is an ongoing investigation for larceny at the 600 block of North Market.

There is an ongoing investigation for animal abandonment at

100 block North Main.

Feb. 13

A summons has been issued to **Alyson Recic** for minor in possession and permitting a peace disturbance at 200 block West 3rd Street.

Feb. 14

A summons has been issued to **Selena Rios** for no valid driver’s license and improper display of license plates at 1100 block East 1st Street.

Feb. 15

There is an ongoing investigation for stealing at 500 block West Cooper.

Feb. 18

A fire report has been issued for smoke investigation at 400 block South Walnut.

A summons has been issued to **Nicholas Martin** for minor in possession at 400 block North Market.

Feb. 20

A fire report has been issued for grass fire at 30000 block Kite Road.

A summons has been issued to **Hayden Smith** for resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, minor in possession, and possession of a fictitious driver’s license.

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NEWSTATESMAN.COM

YouTube prankster Sam Pepper may have given up social media and Youtube altogether after a controversial prank went viral. After receiving a petition signed by over 92,000 other YouTubers and viewers for him to delete his account, all of Pepper's content has been taken down.



JUSTJARED.COM

A new video called "Damn Daniel" went viral. Suspicions arose earlier this week that Daniel Lara, featured in the video, had been assaulted for his white Vans. The assault has been disproven.



DAILYREADLIST.COM

After rape and abuse allegations, Ke\$ha's plea to break her contract with Sony was denied, forcing her to continue to work with her abuser or not make music at all. Several female celebrities such as Lady Gaga and Demi Lovato have rallied around her to protest the decision.



DCGAZZETTE.COM

The FBI has asked Apple to hack into the iPhone used by a shooter in San Bernardino. The massacre took place last December and 14 people were killed. Apple rejected the FBI's plea saying that it will not open a "backdoor" allowing them access to thousands of people's information.



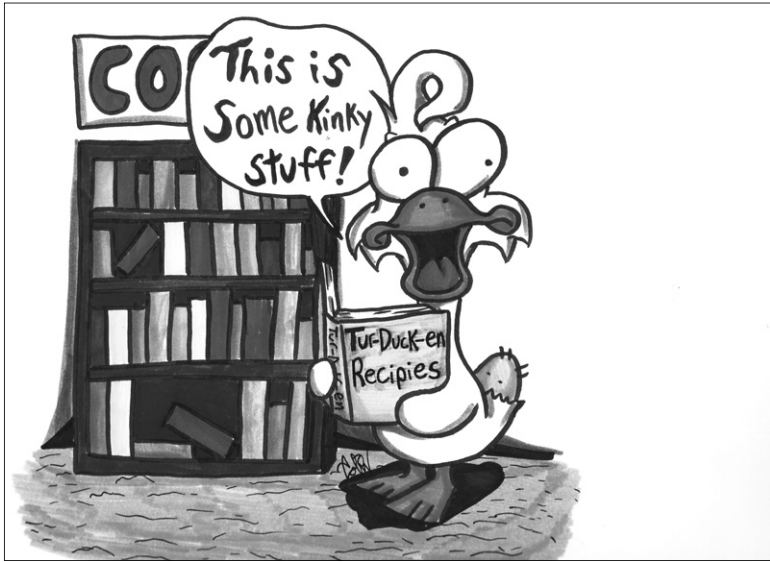
Don't miss out! The English department is presenting its Visiting Writers Series featuring Dustin Parsons and David Welch. The readings will take place Thursday, March 3rd in the Union Living Room at 7 p.m.

Paranormal Inactivity



COLIN VAUGHAN | NW MISSOURIAN

DERPDUCK



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CROSSWORD

By Peter A Collins

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

Clues Across

- 1. Sold at a higher price
- 8. Instill fear
- 13. Can be domesticated
- 14. Oohed and ____
- 15. Make too simple
- 19. Plutonium
- 20. Necessary for breathing
- 21. Make happy
- 22. Mythological bird
- 23. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 24. Put on ____
- 25. Type of dough
- 26. Blushed
- 30. Celestial object
- 31. Point ____ National Seashore
- 32. Purplish red
- 33. Towards the mouth or oral region
- 34. Portuguese musical genre
- 35. Steals
- 38. Acts insincerely
- 39. City in Belarus
- 40. Anticipates
- 43. Paris airport
- 44. Deal with
- 45. No (Scottish)
- 47. Opens lock
- 48. Central parts
- 49. Sheep disease
- 50. Indicates position
- 51. Doing many things at once
- 55. Khoikhoi peoples
- 57. Informal alliance between countries
- 58. Long poems
- 59. The state of being poorly illuminated

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47					48						49	
50			51						52	53	54	
55		56							57			
58									59			

- 10. Exclamation of surprise
- 11. Lies down in rest
- 12. Give an education to
- 16. Provides
- 17. Fat from a pig
- 18. Belonging to a thing
- 22. Branches of a bone
- 25. Having a cheerless aspect or disposition
- 27. Edema (archaic)
- 28. Bo __, "10"
- 29. Unfledged or nestling hawk
- 30. Surrenders
- 32. Type of dessert
- 34. Planted with trees
- 35. Washington town
- 36. Listen in
- 37. Inwardly
- 38. Chinese province
- 40. Garrison
- 41. Converts thermal energy to mechanical work
- 42. Holy people
- 44. Lowest point between two peaks
- 46. Boundaries
- 48. Utter obscenities
- 51. ____ and cheese
- 52. Member of the cuckoo family
- 53. Type of microscope
- 54. ____ and Barbie
- 56. Michigan

Clues Down

- 1. Portico
- 2. Delicacy
- 3. Punish with an arbitrary penalty
- 4. Household god (Roman)
- 5. Public television station
- 6. __ Lilly, drug company
- 7. Degraded
- 8. Free from danger
- 9. Low bank or reef of coral

SOLUTIONS

	D	A	G			A	D	D				
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SUDOKU

By MetroCreative

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Level: Intermediate

‘THE DIP OF THE DECADE’

St. Joseph hosts its 10th annual Polar Bear Plunge

ANTHONY PROCOPIO ROSS
Chief Reporter | @AnthonyProcRoss

Cold water awakens the body and revitalizes the mind when people careen into it at full force for a decent cause.

Participants of the 10th annual Polar Plunge in St. Joseph showed their support this last Saturday for Special Olympics Missouri (SOMO) by raising money to plunge into the cold waters of Lake Contrary.

The Polar Plunge is a project of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Missouri. Various police departments, highway patrols, correctional centers and other law enforcement agencies around the state are proud to host this event.

The \$40,700 raised was a little short of the event’s \$50,000 goal, but all contributions went to the aid of Special Olympic Missouri’s year-round program of “sports training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities,” as dictated by the event’s web page.

Memories of last year’s partially ice covered lake sent chills down the necks of previous contributors. This year’s teams were pleasantly greeted with surprisingly warm weather for a winter day, officially clocking in at a not-so-polar 72 degrees. However this had no effect on the combined effort and enthusiasm of the 171 participants involved. Individuals seemed to race even harder into the water, measured at a cool 42 degrees.

Amusing attire consisting of superhero spandex and capes to jungle animal masks and tails decorated the many arriving to the lake’s beach. These people had a noble reason to be creative.

Hay bales and fire pits were scattered about the beach with the help of local volunteering Boy Scout Troop 45 which also participated in the plunge. Diverse groups of fellow fundraisers conversed in anticipation and camaraderie. Concessions and souvenirs were also sold, with proceeds going to SOMO.

The recitation of the Special Olympics Oath of Athletes kicked off the start of the event, “Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.” This was a great start to the announcer proclaimed “Dip of a Decade.”

Afterward, participants lined up to show off their costumes prior to getting soaked.

Teams Welcome to the Jungle, Lollipop Guild, MTC Saviors, Freezing Eagles and Tanner’s Troop were among the five top ranking fundraisers leading up to the event.

One by one teams dashed for their moment. Water proofed phones and selfie sticks were whipped out for the occasion. Every moment was captured with delight by spectators and fundraisers alike. Flip flops were left floating in the lake for their soggy owners to collect.

Isaac Wilson, a participant who raised money with Lathrop Middle School, expressed how valuable this experience was to him and his fundraising partners.

“I learned to not take things for granted. This is my first time doing the Polar Plunge and it was a really fun time working with my friends and teachers to raise the money,” Wilson said.

The Lanthrop Middle School STUCO were able to raise \$275 by event day through a mix of raffles and independent donations. The school’s student council assisted in the collections but almost all of the effort

came from its students.

“It’s such a nice day, but when the water hit me, I knew it was going to be a long run to the finishing spot,” Wilson said. His group was one of many rushing to the turn back point in the water.

Northwest’s men of Sigma Tau Gamma also attended the event, raising an impressive \$1017. Nick Smith, Brian Davis and Zach Kiel were among the top contributors from Sigma Tau Gamma. The fraternity is regularly involved with the Special Olympics and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Sophomore Michael Barbosa raised \$75 for Sigma Tau Gamma’s team.

“Participating in the Polar Plunge is such a great experience. I love being able to donate and participate to such a great organization that gives people the chance to participate in sports and other activities,” Barbosa said. “It brings me such a warm feeling knowing I made a difference for them.”

While the water settled, participants put on drier clothes and the awards ceremony took place, providing a celebratory end to the gathering.

As quoted from the SOMO website, “Special Olympics transforms lives through the joy of sport, everyday, everywhere.” Events like these show the support Missouri puts forward for the kids in our communities with intellectual handicaps.

For 40 years, the Special Olympics has spread the message, “People with intellectual disabilities can - and will - succeed when given the chance.”

Opportunities to get involved include Torch Run, Over the Edge and The Broadway Bridge Run in addition to the Polar Plunge.

Volunteering, coaching and advocating are other options for getting in touch with the Special Olympics’ community.

Great endeavors combined with the wills of great people produce even greater results. Event contributors did Missouri proud with this act of selflessness and had fun in the process. Next year is just as successful. Be sure to keep eyes and ears open to the wonderful opportunities SOMO is offering year round.

THE NEXT PLUNGE

**March 5, 12 - 4 p.m.
Rolla, Missouri**

Life, Lent and the pursuit of Jesus



With spring comes Lent too. Never an easy feat, there is a fool-proof way of surviving this Lenten season.

Fast food, social media, pop, cursing and men are all things I have given up for the Lent in the past but not everyone understands what this season is about. Lent is the Christian season of preparation before Easter. The Lenten season is a time when many Christians observe a period of fasting, repentance and moderation. The purpose is to set aside time to reflect on Jesus Christ.

During the six weeks of self-examination and reflection, Catholics who observe Lent typically make a commitment to fast, or to give up “bad” habits, such as watching TV, swearing or anything else addictive.

Some Catholics also take on a Lenten discipline, such as reading the Bible and spending more time in prayer to become nearer to God.

Strict observers do not eat meat on Fridays, and eat fish instead. The goal is to strengthen the faith and spiritual disciplines of the observer, and develop a closer relationship with God.

Lent was always something that I took part in when I was growing

up. Like other college students, I do not go to church nearly as much as I should. The season of Lent and the Easter holiday are some of the times I remember my stronger connections with Jesus.

Giving up things we are somewhat addicted to is never easy. My grandma reminded me when I was struggling it is not supposed to be easy. Now that I am in college and not all my peers partake in Lent season, it has become even more difficult.

I have come up with a foolproof plan, however, to survive the Lent season. With these four rules, everyone is sure to have a successful Lent.

1. Give up something realistic
2. Acknowledge temptation is real.
3. Surround yourself with positive vibes
4. If you fail, do not give up

Not saying giving up procrastination is impossible, but as a college student, it is highly unlikely you will change your habits about writing a fifteen page historical survey paper the day it is due.

In all reality, you may fail during the Lent season. It doesn’t mean you



The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday, where the ashes of palm branches are mixed with holy water, blessed and applied to participants’ foreheads. Millions of Christians participate in preparation for Easter.

are a horrible person and will end up in purgatory or hell. It means you are human and humans mess up. I know I will fail, but I will not give up.

Nothing great comes easy. As college students, we get caught in the fast-paced world we live in, but Lent is one time to remind ourselves to slow down, pray and take time to reconnect.

Music notes and brush strokes

a short story by James Henderson III

“Listen to it the way I do,” she said reaching for my face, her soft fingers guiding my eyelids shut. She wanted me to hear music the way she sees it. Sound was her color and music was a masterpiece.

“Okay,” I laughed. The music didn’t start. Not at first. I sat there for a moment, then opened my eyes to see if she was having problems. She looked just fine; in fact her subtly goofy grin stretched her smooth cheeks. I wasn’t sure what she was waiting for until I looked down and saw her arm stretched toward me, palm facing up. I laughed a little to myself, her hue shifting from bashful pink to a beautiful, vibrant vermilion. I reached out and clasped my fingers between hers. I bit back the words I’d been dying to say since five minutes after I met her and became aware of the ridiculous smile plastered to my face and became selfishly grateful she

couldn’t see.

“And don’t you for a second think I don’t know your smile is bigger than mine,” she stated as plainly as a girl with that beautiful of a smile could say. I became painfully aware that she would never be able to see how beautiful she is. “Now close your eyes, again.”

I did as she asked and she played the first song. She fell silent, but I could feel her body tense, her hand squeezed mine tighter.

I really listened to every layer of the music that drifted through the air. I tried to make every note a brush stroke. To not only hear the beautiful melody but to witness the brilliant piece of art it was crafting before me. The music she played was beautiful and lyrical. I had never heard anything like what was playing out of her small green speakers, on her dark brown wood desk, next to her stack of books

filled with braille. I was no longer trying to see the artwork the musician was creating, I was imagining the music engulfing a room with its melodic atmosphere. As beautiful as this moment still felt to me, there was a hollow feeling of despair that nearly spoiled it all. I could never possibly imagine what she is seeing. The burden of reality had suffocated my ability to imagine the way she can long before this moment.

I squeezed her hand back and let myself enjoy her again as the first song ended, “This sounds like what I see in you,” I whispered.

I felt a shift in the bed and then her lips grazing up and down my neck. Her hands were around me, she was on top of me, her body and her lips moved in fluidity to the rhythm of the beat. She continued to kiss me from song to song.

I kept my eyes closed.

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THE STROLLER: Your Woman wants you to have friends

If we are all truly honest with ourselves, we can recognize it is often hard to balance your romantic relationships and your friendships.

However, it is extremely important to remember to take a break from your significant other and spend some quality time with the girls.

So, while your woman is having a girls’ night out with her besties, she wouldn’t mind if you had a couple of the guys come over to watch the basketball game and have a couple beers.

Your woman does not want to feel guilty about leaving you home by yourself, so try to make some plans.

I know what you are all thinking, chances are you have had an argument with your woman because she believes you pay more attention to your friends than you do to her.

Chances are if your woman is saying this, she feels as though you look forward to see your friends more than you do her or you act differently when you are around the guys versus your woman.

Seriously, don’t be that guy. Even if you are around your friends, it is still important to respect your woman and then your woman will have more respect for you.

Also, never be afraid to ask your woman to hang out with you and the guys. That way she feels welcome and knows you value the relationship.

Call up the guys and have some plans set. Tell your woman she should call her friends up and go out to have a nice time.

A relationship is even healthier when each person is independent and willing to take a break from each other. Stay thirsty.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

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Freshman guard Macy Williams defends against Missouri Western's junior guard Chelsea Dewey during Saturday's game. Northwest lost to Missouri Western 66-59, bringing its overall record to 5-21.

STRETCH
CONTINUED FROM **A12**

"It also finishes out the seniors' season. We want to win still, no matter if we go to the conference tournament or not, we still want to upset somebody. This game Saturday gives us a great chance to do that."

The Bearcats played host to No. 22 Emporia State last night.

The final game takes place

again at Bearcat Arena when Northwest faces off against Southwest Baptist on Saturday.

Schechinger hides no excitement knowing her final game will be played on her home floor.

"I knew going into it the year that it was (at home)," she said. "It's a really good feeling knowing that I put in a lot of work for these fans and for them to be able to come out and support us in our last game is re-

ally exciting."

As the final game approaches for the senior class, it marks the beginning step for freshman guard Macy Williams and the other underclassmen.

"It's been on my mind a lot to finish strong, especially with the disappointment of not making the conference tournament," Williams said. "We are positive right now, practices have been go-

ing well. It's not like we're treating this game like it doesn't matter because it does, for morale and finishing strong going into the off-season."

Northwest tips off against Southwest Baptist, Saturday at 1:30 p.m. in Bearcat Arena.

In the final game, Scheel wants to send his team into the offseason the right way.

"It's very important to have

something positive (for the offseason)," Scheel said. "Just losing the vocal-ness from the seniors leaving is something that I hope carries over the most with the young kids, because they have to understand that you can always be a voice no matter how the game is going. With having so much youth, if they can see that and grow from that and learn from it, that's just one area that I think we can improve on."

TRACK
CONTINUED FROM **A12**

Harnisch says the important aspect of this progression has come through established consistency.

"It is really important for all events to be consistent so you can hit those big marks or get those awesome times," Harnisch said. "If you are floating around, it is tough to do that, but if you are consistent with things, that is when you can grow."

The meet also comes as a last chance to make the NCAA Division II National Championship meet.

"We have all sorts of people in the bubble," Lorek said. "This is the last weekend and there is going to be a lot of movement on the list. We need to improve to see how many people we actually have there at the national meet. It is a big weekend for that, but we are just going to make sure we compete real well. You never really have to worry about the MIAA not being compet-

itive enough."

Lorek says he will be happy no matter how many people end up on the list following the conference meet.

"I am not one to go in and nit pick and analyze scores and pre-score them like other people do," Lorek said. "I just want us to get in there and bump heads and be as competitive as possible."

Those who make the national meet will compete March 11-12 in Pittsburg, Kansas.

NFL combine produces mixed results for prospects



Indianapolis, Indiana, will welcome 331 college football stars who get the chance to prove themselves this weekend at the 2016 NFL Draft Combine.

The combine gives each NFL team a chance to see the pure athleticism of the college athletes choosing to enter the draft. The athletes will perform a variety of tasks, ranging from 40-yard dashes to bench pressing to standardized mental tests.

Since the college football championship, these athletes have competed in all-star events and trained very hard for the upcoming combine. For most of these players, the combine will be followed with their pro days. Pro days are another type of combine, held at the athlete's university. These physical evaluations could lead to players being drafted into the NFL.

While the combine creates more news for the NFL and gives college athletes the opportunity to compete, critics often question the importance or relevance of the combine. These skeptics will argue that the results often don't translate to on-field success and can potentially lead to better players falling behind inferior players with better combine statistics. The debate will continue, however, as

no clear sign of evidence can be found to completely prove that the combine is or is not relevant.

The combine has seen many freak athletes come and blow the scouts away with their speed, power and leaping abilities. For those players, the combine is the ultimate proving ground. They have the ability to put their names at the top of the lists in several different combine events, prompting NFL teams to look at them a little bit closer. Sometimes these players can even steal a far more productive college player's draft spot.

For NFL teams, these players often create debate within the organization. The teams ponder whether or not the player can be coached well enough to put those physical tools to use or if they would be better served to go with players that seem to grasp NFL style better. Neither way of picking has proven better than the other.

Dontari Poe for the Kansas City Chiefs was drafted eleventh overall in the 2012 NFL Draft. The disgruntled fan base highly questioned this pick, as Poe recorded just 101 tackles and five sacks in his three year career at Memphis.

However, Poe used the combine to springboard himself into a top fifteen pick. Poe weighed in at over 340 pounds and ran the 40-yard dash in under five seconds. Not only was this massive man able to run faster than most people in his position, but he was

also one of the strongest in combine history. He finished with 44 bench press reps, the fourth most of all time. Since being drafted by the Chiefs, Poe has become a two-time pro bowler and a second team all NFL defensive tackle.

On the flip side, New England Patriot megastar Tom Brady had an absolutely horrid combine. Aside from having a very unflattering combine picture, Brady also posted a 5.28 second 40-yard dash. This is over a third of a second slower than near 350 pounder, Dontari Poe. What cannot be measured in the combine is the will to win and the competitive drive that it takes to be great in the NFL. Brady was drafted behind six quarterbacks in the 2000 NFL Draft and went to the Patriots in the sixth round with the 199th overall pick. In 2001, he took over for injured starting Patriot quarterback Drew Bledsoe. Since that point, the once maligned Brady has won four Super Bowls, two NFL MVP Awards and gone to 11 Pro Bowls.

The combine will take place all week with the skilled events running from Friday to Monday. There is no doubt that for players on the fringe that the NFL combine will become their proving ground, and it is important to remember that the players' hearts cannot be measured. Teams should be aware of the results of the combine, but should not put all their hope in the combine heroes.

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Northwest will host its first three conference games of the season Feb. 26-28.

HANNAH WOODSON | NW MISSOURIAN

Offensive consistency key to strong start in conference play

JOSEPH ANDREWS
Chief Sports Reporter | @Joe_Andrews15

The Northwest baseball team will now shift its focus to the MIAA after starting the season off with nine straight non-conference road games.



Northwest heads into conference play with a 5-4 record. The positive start on the road suggests the Bearcats have the power to stay competitive against tough opponents.

“It has certainly been a good start to the season,” head coach Darin Loe said. “I am most pleased about the competition level that we have faced. We really battled and we are putting ourselves out there for a good start to the season.”

The Bearcats have scored five or more runs in five games this season. Despite this advantage, batting is still an issue the team has yet to master.

“Looking at our offense, we have had big games at times,” Loe said. “I don’t think we are as consistent as we will be in a week or two. We have a quality offense, it is just a little out of sync right now.”

With an offense that remains stagnant until the last minute, the Bearcats’ wins can be credited to the pitching rotation.

“Our pitchers have been winning every game,” senior infielder Ozzie Adams said. “If it was up to them, we would have a lot more wins. Lately, we have been getting the timely hits. Last game we fought to get to extra innings and we got big hits when we needed them. Up and down we have just been looking to find ourselves and find consistency in the lineup.”

Loe says his team will continue to rely on pitching until batters find consistency within their hitting.

“It seems like every year the pitching is a little ahead of the hitting,” Loe said. “Once they get playing three or four games a week, the guys will start swinging and becoming the best they can at bat.”

The hitting will continue to improve with the help from the early-spring weather Maryville has been seeing.

“We have been able to go out and take them to batting practice and get some ground balls off the baseball field and off the turf,” Loe said. “I certainly think that plays into where we are at right now as far as wins and losses. I think the more we are able to do that, the better the team will be.”

The weather also allows the team’s home opener against Northeastern State to occur Feb. 26-28. Average Maryville Februaries do not typically allow this to happen.

“We are all excited to play at home,” Adams said. “Being in northwest Missouri, you don’t get the chance to have a home opener in February very often. It is a big one since it is a conference opener. Conference is what we play for.”

The conference matchup gives the Bearcats their chance to establish ground in conference early in the season. Coming into the season, the Bearcats were picked to finish 12th out of 14 teams in the MIAA Baseball Preseason Coaches Poll.

“We want to start hot,” Loe said. “We want to go out and win every game, but we need to put ourselves out there to keep pace with all of the other schools in the conference.”

The Bearcats are ranked tenth in the conference.



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Spoofhounds conclude disappointing season

TREY RANDLE
Chief Sports Reporter | @TreyRock36

Entering the 2015-2016 season, the Spoofhounds knew the climb to state would be an uphill one.



In order for a team to be considered full, it must have a wrestler in all 14 weight classes. This year, Maryville had eight.

“Lower numbers won’t win many duels,” head coach Connor Kellerstrass said. “Instead, each day in practice we addressed the need to improve for each individual. It also helped that we peaked at the right time. That lets me know the guys were working hard.”

Considering lower numbers affect the overall team score, individual wrestlers are still presented with an opportunity to compete. Coaching a team with only two seniors, Kellerstrass witnessed his team grow into one full of potential.

Senior Matthew Twaddle saw the effort put into weekly improvement finally come into fruition.

“We came in everyday and got better,” Twaddle said. “It feels good

getting a lot of wins. We came out and out-wrestled the bigger schools and that was good to see.”

Twaddle was not the only wrestler to qualify for state. Senior Jacob Partridge also qualified in the 113-pound class. Although he failed to place, Partridge did not come home empty handed.

“It was a good experience because I learned a lot,” Partridge said. “It did not end like I wanted it to, but it was still a good learning experience.”

Now that his second season is complete, Kellerstrass knows the ropes of being Maryville’s head coach. Every season, there is a point when the team faces adversity but manages to fight through.

“Honestly, I kind of waited for this to happen because we just kept wrestling better and better,” Kellerstrass said. “Through the season, there is always some sort of dip we have to take and when we did, the boys responded well.”

There is often a specific point when a team finally hits its stride. Everything falls in order and the team reaches the level that was ex-

pected of it since the season first began. According to Kellerstrass, that point came Feb. 4.

“We went to Maysville and wrestled two of the top Class 1 teams in the state,” Kellerstrass said. “I was impressed with the way they wrestled against two top teams and the way they got after it by going a full six minutes and never giving up.”

As far as next year is concerned, Kellerstrass already plans on making sure the problems that plagued the team this year do not resurface.

“The goal for next year is to get more kids to come out and stay out,” Kellerstrass said. “We’re still a very young team. A lot of our kids are in their first and second year wrestling, so there is a lot of room for growth and improvement.”

Although this past season will not go down as a success overall, the 2015 Maryville wrestling team can still hang its hat on the fact that the team made significant strides over the season. Considering this, the sky’s the limit to just how good next year’s team can be.

SPONSORED BY NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT	WOMEN’S BASKETBALL			MEN’S BASKETBALL			BASEBALL			SOFTBALL		
	MIAA Standings			MIAA Standings			MIAA Standings			MIAA Standings		
	Overall	MIAA		Overall	MIAA		Overall	MIAA		Overall	MIAA	
	Y-Missouri Western.....	24-2	18-2	Y-NORTHWEST.....	20-5	17-3	Missouri Southern.....	8-0	0-0	Cental Oklahoma.....	11-3	0-0
	Y-Fort Hays St.....	23-3	17-3	X-Nebraska Kearney.....	17-9	13-7	Lindenwood.....	5-2	0-0	NORTHWEST.....	6-2	0-0
	Y-Pittsburg St.....	23-4	17-4	X-Missouri Southern.....	16-11	13-8	Emporia St.....	6-3	0-0	Pittsburg St.....	9-4	0-0
	Y-Emporia St.....	21-5	15-5	X-Fort Hays St.....	18-8	12-8	Northeastern St.....	5-3	0-0	Missouri Western.....	8-4	0-0
	X-Washburn.....	15-11	11-9	X-Lindenwood.....	15-11	11-9	Pittsburg St.....	5-3	0-0	Northeastern State.....	10-5	0-0
	X-Missouri Soutern.....	17-10	11-10	X-Pittsburg St.....	16-11	11-10	Central Oklahoma.....	3-2	0-0	Missouri Southern.....	7-6	0-0
	X-Central Oklahoma.....	16-10	10-10	X-Washburn.....	14-11	10-10	Missouri Western.....	4-3	0-0	Emporia St.....	8-7	0-0
	X-Nebraska Kearney.....	14-12	10-10	X-Emporia State.....	13-13	10-10	Southwest Baptist.....	4-3	0-0	Central Missouri.....	7-8	0-0
	X-Southwest Baptist.....	14-12	9-11	Central Oklahoma.....	13-13	9-11	NORTHWEST.....	5-4	0-0	Washburn.....	4-5	0-0
	X-Central Missouri.....	9-16	8-12	Lincoln.....	13-13	9-11	Washburn.....	4-4	0-0	Nebraska Kearney.....	6-8	0-0
	Northeastern St.....	8-18	5-15	Central Missouri.....	13-13	7-13	Fort Hays St.....	5-5	0-0	Fort Hays St.....	3-6	0-0
	Lincoln.....	8-18	4-16	Missouri Western.....	9-17	7-13	Central Missouri.....	1-5	0-0	Southwest Baptist.....	4-8	0-0
	Lindenwood.....	7-19	3-17	Northeastern St.....	8-16	7-13	Nebraska Kearney.....	1-6	0-0	Fort Hays St.....	2-7	0-0
	NORTHWEST.....	5-20	3-17	Southwest Baptist.....	10-16	5-15	Lincoln.....	1-7	0-0	Lincoln.....	0-11	0-0
	Feb. 27			Feb. 27			Feb 26-28			Feb 27-28		
	Southwest Baptist at NORTHWEST			Southwest Baptist at NORTHWEST			Northeastern State at NORTHWEST			Teri Mathis-Zenner Memorial Tournament		
	Y- Clinched a spot in Kansas City			MIAA Tournament in Kansas City								
	X- Clinched a spot in MIAA Tournament			Y- Clinched a spot in Kansas City								
				X- Clinched a spot in MIAA Tournament								



Left to right, Sarah Baldwin, Taylor Blackford, Rachel Smith and Kendle Schieber warm up before practice Feb. 23. The Bearcats will host their first home game of the season March 3 against Central Oklahoma.

Pitching rotation in midseason form, off to fast start

TREY RANDLE
Chief Sports Reporter | @treyrock36

The Northwest Missouri State softball team is eight games into the 2016 campaign and the pitching rotation has already established its identity.

During any given practice, one can find the pitchers yelling words of encouragement or laughing, just enjoying each other’s company. In a group that includes two seniors, a junior and a freshman, it is the sense of camaraderie that allows it to flourish, at least that is how it looks from head coach Ryan Anderson’s point of view.



“It’s not about one person,” Anderson said. “Everybody realizes that we need everybody. We don’t have the primadonnas on the team who wants the ball every time. They’re willing to have help.”

The help that Anderson is referring to is any pitcher that enters the game in the late innings to save the game. Because of this, it should come as no surprise that Northwest leads the MIAA in saves.

Although the rotation is off to a solid start, Anderson feels the group still has a long way to go before it even comes close to reaching its full potential.

“We’ve played a tournament indoors and we practice indoors,” An-

derson said. “Once we get more experience outside, I think it is going to help the pitchers settle and we can work out those bugs.”

One of the leaders of the group is senior Sarah Baldwin. Coming off a season where she ranked in the top 15 in the MIAA for five different categories, Baldwin also acknowledges her teammates tendency to put the team first.

“We honestly want one another to do well,” Baldwin said. “For example, I know Kendel (Schieber) will text me to tell me good job and if I have a bad performance. There is always someone there to pick me up.”

The unit’s most dominant out-

ing came during the second game of the season against Southern Nazarene. Although Southern Nazarene recorded six hits, only two runners scored in a game that ended 4-2 with Northwest coming out on top. Quality pitching may have played a part in that win, but the timing of it was even more prominent.

“We have a pitching unit goal,” Anderson said. “We want to work ahead and not pitch from behind. If we can continue to get ahead, then we’ll have a better chance at getting batters out and not giving up the big hit. They know if they do give up a hit, then they are okay with someone coming to get them out.”

Baldwin says that the sky is the

limit for this year’s rotation. And although it is still early in the season, young players have already made their mark on the team. Also, the veteran leadership that is present will prove to be valuable down the road.

“We have freshman who are getting a ton of playing time,” Baldwin said. “And she still hasn’t reached her potential. Kendel and I are seniors, so we already know what to expect from the MIAA.”

Northwest will travel to Joplin to compete in the Teri Mathis-Zenner Memorial Tournament Feb. 27. Opening pitch is at 2 p.m.

Girls basketball season comes to abrupt end

JACOB SUNDERMAN
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

The Maryville girls basketball team’s season came to a close Monday as they fell to East Buchanan in the first round of districts.

“East Buchanan is a very well-respected basketball team in this area,” head coach Quentin Albrecht said. “The first time we played them it was 24-3 after the first (quarter). It was a rough go. We played better this time.”

The Spoofhounds finished the season with an 8-17 record, which is a major improvement from the 1-23



record the team sported last season. One goal the team set this season was to get 10 wins and a district win, and although neither happened, this was not a disappointing season.

“We were excited with our success, but at same time we are not satisfied,” Albrecht said. “We set some goals at the beginning of the year and one of them was bringing home two plaques or trophies and we accomplished that. We wanted 10 wins and came close, but lost four games by combined seven points.”

After starting the season 0-3, the Spoofhounds got into the winning column. Throughout the season, Maryville put together winning

streaks, won fifth place in the Cameron Invitational Tournament, won third place in the Leblond Tournament and went 2-2 in the four games leading up to districts. The team improved immensely along the way.

In the four games they narrowly lost, it all came down to the final possession and two of the games were buzzer beaters.

That turned an 8-17 record into a 12-13 record.

With a new coaching staff, system and philosophy, along with a few new starters, nobody was certain how this season would turn out.

“We didn’t know what to expect coming into the season,” Al-

brecht said. “We didn’t have a lot of starting experience coming in, and not a lot of time to learn the whole system.”

Having only one senior on the roster meant that a lot of underclassmen had to step up. After senior Jacquelyn Ware, the players that stepped up were juniors Felicia Sheil and Abbie Greeley and sophomore Megan Worthington.

“We weren’t sure what some of them could do at the varsity level and they proved that they could play,” Albrecht said. “(Felicia) Sheil stepped up and did an outstanding job. She proved she could be a scorer. (Abbie) Greeley really proved

she can be a defensive and rebounding force for us. Our impact scorer was (Megan) Worthington, who is just a sophomore.



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ATHLETES of the WEEK



BEARCATS

Chris-Ebou Ndow



The sophomore forward scored a season high 26 points and made six of his nine attempted three point shots through 34 minutes in a 75-56 victory over Missouri Western Feb. 20. Men’s Basketball hosts Southwest Baptist Feb. 24.

Madison Jones



The senior infielder drove in four runs with a grand slam in the third inning, finishing 1-for-4 in a 3-1 victory against Upper Iowa Feb. 20. Softball participates in the Teri Mathis-Zenner Memorial Tournament Feb. 24-25.

SPOOFHOUNDS



Megan Worthington



The sophomore scored 17 points in a 49-41 loss to East Buchanan in the first round of the class 3 district 16 tournament Feb. 22. The Spoofhounds finished their season with a record of 8-17 under first-year coach Quentin Albrecht.

Alex Bean



The junior scored 12 points through three quarters in a 86-24 victory over Cristo Rey in the first round of the class 3 district 16 tournament Feb. 23. The Spoofhounds move on to play Bishop Leblond Feb. 25.



The men's basketball team celebrates its third consecutive MIAA title after defeating Missouri Western Feb. 20. The Bearcats clinched the MIAA outright Feb. 13.

Northwest continues to find ways to win

JACOB BLAND
Sports Editor @J_Bland93

Jan. 13 is the last time the Northwest men's basketball team lost a game. In their loss to the Hornets, the Bearcats were out of sync and discombobulated.

They could not find their shots, which eventually led to them blowing a sizable lead. The Bearcats had one of their worst 3-point shooting performances of the season, converting a paltry 27 percent.

"It all happened towards the end of the game," sophomore guard Justin Pitts said. "They just went on a run, started making shots and they started doing all the things they needed to do to win the game. I feel like once it got towards the end, we stopped making the shots we normally make. We couldn't stop them at the end of the game."

Since then, the Bearcats have won 10 straight and have been tearing through the MIAA. A big reason why the Bearcats have been so suc-

cessful is because they are making tough shots in key situations.

Last weekend against Missouri Western, the Bearcats had a slim 39-38 lead. The Bearcats broke open that lead with a series of 3-pointers on back-to-back possessions. Once Northwest started converting on a few shots, the offense opened up and ran away with the game. This has been a common theme throughout the season, specifically when the Bearcats win.

"(When we start making those threes in bunches) it can break you," head coach Ben McCollum said. "It requires so much mental energy to defend all of our shooters, so when they do start going and all of a sudden you start to focus on the other one, now we get the other one open. We're going to keep coming at you, it's a battle of wills, whoever wants it more generally wins."

At the beginning of the season, the Bearcats had to overcome adversity. Besides dealing with injuries, the Bearcats had a few newcomers they had to acclimate to the team. During this period, Pitts, senior

guard Conner Crooker and junior forward Zach Schneider were heavily relied upon to produce points. As the season spurred on, newcomers such as sophomore swingman Chris-Ebou Ndow developed into pleasant contributors.

"Now we have four shooters out there, it makes us pretty difficult to defend," McCollum said. "On top of it, he (Ndow) can cut, finish, drive, and he can obviously hit the offensive boards. He adds a different dimension to our team. He adds that athleticism to defensive lanes and, obviously, offensive rebounds and now shooting."

In Northwest's win over Missouri Western Saturday, it was not Pitts who led the team in scoring, it was Ndow with 26 points. Pitts, who leads the team in scoring with 20.8 points per game, says the emergence of guys like Ndow benefits the team.

"As a team, it makes us stronger and a lot deeper now," Pitts said. "Earlier in the season we had a lot of injuries and we were only playing with six or seven guys. Now we

have (Xavier Kurth) back. (Having multiple contributors) makes us more deeper and confident as a team."

Within their 10-game win streak, the Bearcats captured an outright share of the MIAA title. Attaining the conference championship may not have been possible had it not been for the Bearcats' ability to put together a long string of victories. McCollum credits his players' mental toughness to the team's run.

"Our kids are tough mentally," McCollum said. "I think for a lot of teams, when they get into the year and everybody is excited early for the first few games, there is always a breaking point and it is usually halfway through conference (play). With our kids, they keep getting better daily. They don't break, they're mentally strong, they can handle daily practices. We're still conditioning them at practice. No teams that I know of in the country continue to do that."

Women's basketball enters final stretch

JONATHAN BAKER
Missourian Sports | @TheMissourian

After the conclusion of Saturday's 66-59 defeat to No. 7 Missouri Western, the Bearcats faced elimination from the MIAA postseason tournament in Kansas City, Missouri.

Despite the deflating loss, Northwest battled the entire game against its bitter rival, which interim head coach Buck Scheel anticipated from his team.

"It was great to see the girls not give up," Scheel said. "We had several situations in that game where we could have thrown in the towel, but we fought back continuously throughout that game."

The Bearcats erased a seven-point deficit to tie the game at 26-26 in the first half. Again, they answered from a 51-36 lead by the Griffons and cut it to eight in the second half. The Bearcat offense found no answer for Missouri Western's scoring ability late in the final minutes, which sealed the fate of their season's end.

"They hold a 20 point differential over their opponents, and for us to be able to hold them below their average and just be in the game says a lot about the girls, especially at this point in the season with the way our wins and losses have worked out," Scheel said.

Even with her career coming to a close, senior guard Tember Schechinger aims to finish the season strong, showing the underclassmen how to prepare each day.

"Showing them that this last game leads into their season next year," Schechinger said.

SEE STRETCH | A9

Track and Field prepares for MIAA Indoor Championships



Short distance track members gear up for the final meet of the indoor season. Multiple sprinters have placed in the top 10 of respective events. The indoor MIAA Championships will take place Feb. 26 in Pittsburg, Kansas.

JOSEPH ANDREWS
Chief Sports Reporter | @Joe_Andrews15

The Northwest Indoor Track and Field team will be competing in the MIAA conference championship in Pittsburg, Kansas Feb. 26-28.

The meet marks the first time Northwest has competed at Pittsburg State's new indoor athletic facility. The meet also brings the chance for the Bearcats to take home a MIAA championship.

"MIAA championships are crazy in track and field," head coach Scott Lorek said. "They are very exciting and tense. The athletes are just really up and ready for this weekend."

The conference meet gives the team a chance to prove who it is and gives teammates the chance to celebrate the work which has been put in even before the season began.

"The MIAA is a super exciting meet," senior thrower Nicole Harnisch said. "It is really the only time that the team is all together and excited for each other as a whole. Everybody has huge goals and we

all expect really big things."

The excitement comes from results which have been seen at meets throughout the season.

The results have encouraged younger members of the team to step up as leaders.

"It has been a natural progression of our team," Lorek said. "We kind of spend a lot of time talking about people like Chloe Wichmann, but we have a lot of people who are rising up and becoming more competitive at this level too. It has been more of a progression to our program."

Lorek says each aspect of the team is ready to compete at a full level in the championships.

"Our distance runners have been progressing lately," Lorek said. "We have a hurdle crews on each side that are very competitive and coming across very well, having solid marks. Our throwers are developing very well. We are starting to fill in things that we have been lacking in the past few years and we have a lot of young people that have tremendous potential."

SEE TRACK | A9

Maryville cruises through first round of District Tournament

ISAIAH SWAN
Assistant Sports Editor | @iswanny3503

The Maryville Spoofhounds were relentless from the start and strong till the end, taking care of business in the first round of the Class 3 District 16 tournament and defeating Cristo Rey 86-24 Tuesday night.

From the opening tip, Maryville was determined to put the ball in the hoop at a fast pace that Cristo Rey could not handle.

"Our main focus was energy," Maryville coach Matt Stoecklein said. "Move the basketball fast, look to score fast, get the ball up the floor fast. It was mainly about 'let's go

play hard.'"

During the team warm-ups, Stoecklein was doing multiple stretches by himself, trying to get loose before the game. The Spoofhounds (16-7) had extra pressure coming in as the number one seed of the tournament. John Zimmerman relieved the stress of his coach by scoring right off the opening play.

"When he made that first shot, I was like 'okay, things will go alright'," Stoecklein said. "My concern was that we were going to come out flat. They didn't, and I was proud of how hard they fought."

With just a little over two minutes remaining in the first quarter, junior forward Jakob Gray electrified the gym with a dunk off a give and go pass from Jakob Woods, giving the Spoofhounds a 14-2 lead.

"I was really amazed," Gray said. "That was my first dunk all year. I was really happy. I almost thought I was going to miss it, but I'm glad it went in."

Maryville opened the game on a 22-2 run to end the first quarter.

The speed and athleticism was too much for the Cristo Rey Pumas. What made the Spoofhounds deadly was their three-point shooting, converting 12 from beyond the arc. These threes primarily came off fast breaks Maryville created all game.

"It's huge, we always talk about going fast," Zimmerman said. "When

we see one ball go in, it's sort of like a ripple effect. Seems like all of us catch fire and when we all catch fire, we are pretty hard to guard."

The speed of Maryville's offense was on full display, but all championship style basketball starts with defense.

"Our defensive energy was there," Stoecklein said. "It led to some transition points and some easy looks."

Those easy looks helped Maryville take a commanding 49-11 into halftime. The carnage would continue in the second half. During the third quarter, the team nailed five of its 12 three pointers, extending the lead to 74-18. Mid-way through

the fourth was when Maryville built its largest lead of 60 points. From the beginning to the end, it was the Maryville Spoofhounds dominating on both sides of the ball.

Maryville is back in action Thursday night facing Bishop Leblond at 6 p.m. at East Buchanan High School.

These two teams have met two previous times this season, with Maryville getting double-digit victories in both contests, 69-47 and 60-39.

"We just have to come out ready to play," Zimmerman said. "We can't overlook Leblond, they are a good playoff team. We just have to play our game."